trips abroad on 30 occasions during the last five ydars.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) He visited 38 countries during these tours.

(d) He was away from the country for a total number of 150 days after assuming office.

Establishment of Cargo tie up with India and Singapore

1651. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore has shown interest in establishing Cargo tie up with India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the reaction of Government of India thereon; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remove red-tape, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Allotment of Gas Agencies in the Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

1652. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH-
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is comparatively lesser number of gas agencies in the eighth hill districts of Uttar Pradesh in comparison to other parts, which are similarly situated in the country;

(b) if so, what is the ratio of gas agency vis-a-vis the area and population of the area in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States;

(c) whether the areas of Uttar Pradesh hills are heavily discriminated in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps Government will take to increase the number of gas agencies in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) From the details given below, it may be seen that people residing in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh have not been discriminated against those in Himachal Pradesh, J&K, North Eastern States, in

respect of domestic LPG facilities:

	Hill Distts. of U.P.	Himachal Pradesh	J & K	North Eastern States (8 States)
Pupulation (in lacs)	59.22	51.70	77.18	319.50
No. of LPG distributors	54	62	81	211
No. of customer (in las)	4.28	2.71	2.88	6.13
Ratio of LPG customer:Population	1:14	1:19	1:27	1:52

Legislation to Regulate State Lotteries

1653. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE.
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAIA PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of millions of families being ruined through different systems of lotteries run by State Governments and other Government agencies;

(b) whether Government propose to bring up any legislation before Parliament to regulate "State" lotteries if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the so called instant lotteries which have lately replaced, the single digit lotteries in different States; if so, whether Government have assessed the impact of this new system of lotteries on the social and economic life of the society; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the malpractices and the ill effects thereof, prevalent in the conduct of lotteries. Though the Central Government does not conduct any lottery of its own, it has, over a period of time, sent guidelines to the State Governments for curbing the malpractices prevalent in the Lottery trade. In this context, the Supreme Court has also laid down certain guidelines for the conduct of lotteries. It is essentially for the State Governments to improve the monitoring and implementation of laws pertaining to the conduct of lotteries and to modify the laws, depending on their impact on the socioo economic life of the people of the State.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने हेतु संस्थानों को दायित्व दिया जाना

1654. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वार गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान ग्रामीण अंचलों में स्थानीय उत्पादों के आधार पर खाद्य प्रसंस्करण के क्षेत्र में कुटीर तथा लघु उद्योग इकाइयों की स्थापना को प्रोत्साहन देने की संभावनाओं और उनकी खोजों के लिए दायित्व कतिपय संस्थानों को दिये थे,

(ख) यदि हां, तो किस-किस संस्थान को इस प्रकार के दायित्व दिये गये थे,

(ग) क्या इन संस्थाओं द्वारा अपने प्रतिवेदन सरकार को प्रस्तुत किये गये हैं,

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो किस-किस संस्थान से उसका प्रतिवेदन कब तक प्राप्त होने की संभावना है, और

(ड़) किन-किन संस्थानों ने अपने प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत कर दिये हैं और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री